Technology Mission on Cotton in A.P.

4349. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of Intensive Cotton Development Programme under Technology Mission on Cotton in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) what was the progress regarding distribution of seeds, bio-agents, sprayers, drip irrigation system etc. during the last three years in the State, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Intensive Cotton Development Programme under Mini-Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton is continuing in Andhra Pradesh. During the last three years the area under cotton has been around 10 lakh hectares with production fluctuating around 16 lakh bales per year. However, the productivity levels have not improved much during this period and are around 250—300 kg. Lint per hectare.

(b) The progress under the components of the scheme in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is as under :

SI. No. Component	Unit	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1. Distribution of Certified Seed	Quintal		443	24
2. Supply of Bio-agents	Hectare		4916	4731
3. Supply of Sprayers	Nos.		2057	4066
4. Drip Irrigation System	Nos.		20	72

Minimising use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides

4350. SHRI MY RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government consider it important to minimis the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on the soil; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The consumption of chemical fertilizers in terms of nutrients is about 90.12 kg/ha during 2001-02 which is not considered high. However, to ensure that there is no ill-effect of any kind due to imbalanced use of plant nutrients, the Government propagates the use of integrated nutrients combining chemical fertilizers, organic manures and biofertilizers on the basis of soil test as per the requirement of the crop.

To minimize the use of the chemical pesticides the Government is promoting the integrated pest management (IPM) programme.

Shortage of fodder

4351. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage of fodder due to serious drought situation in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to strengthen fodder bank and seed production in these States; and

(c) whether any amount has been released to these States so far, in this regard in the financial year 2002-03; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. There is an overall shortage of fodder in the drought-affected States, including MP. and Chhattisgarh.

(b) Government of India grants the funds to the States for establishment of fooder banks on 75 : 25, Centre : State Share basis. Besides, fodder Minikits under "Central Minikit Testing Programme on Fodder Crops" are allotted to the States for onward supply to the farmers free of cost for fodder and fodder seed production. In addition, 100% Central funds are also provided to the States for enrichment of straw/cellulosic waste.

(c) Government of Chhattisgarh was granted an amount of Rs. 100 lakhs for Enrichment of Straw/Cellulosic Waste during 2002-03. Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh were also allotted fodder minikits 44000 nos. and 7600 nos. respectively during 2002-2003.

Development of bacterial-wilt resistant chilli

4352. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scientists of the Department of Olericulture of Kerala Agricultural University has developed a bacterial-wilt resistant chilli;

(b) if so, the details of the research; and

(c) by when the commercial production of this variety could be taken up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.